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## Homemaker Salutes: Miss Belle Lowe

Betty Gregory

*Iowa State College*

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Miss Belle Lowe

**Y**OU MIGHT FIND Belle Lowe clad in a professional white uniform working in her laboratory in the second floor of Home Economics Hall. Then again, you might find her crouched close to the ground seeking the right angle for photographing dew drops on bright spring flowers.

For Miss Lowe is a refreshing individualist who uses her "research mind" in everything she does—from selecting a perfectly coordinated wardrobe for a trip to Europe to experimenting in the realm of food cookery.

#### Interested in "Why?"

"I've always been interested in 'Why?'—in the chemistry of things," she explains. Because of this interest, she could almost be called "Miss Experimental Cookery". Retiring after 35 years at Iowa State, Miss Lowe is leaving behind a record of teaching and research. "I've enjoyed both of these duties," she commented.

Most of her research has been done in the field of poultry, meat and fats. Early studies included experiments on the effect of rations fed to animals upon the quality of meat produced and involved working out standard methods of preparing meats. P. Mabel Nelson, former Dean of the Division of Home Economics who worked with her at that time recalls, "We didn't have much equipment then, but 'B. Lowe' always made the best of what she had. She has an inquiring mind and everything starts her thinking about how and why to do things better."

#### Text Only One of Kind

Miss Lowe won the first Christy Award of \$500 given in 1938 to the person who contributed the most to the study of eggs and poultry. She is best known for her book, "Experimental Cookery," now in its

# Homemaker

by Betty Gregory

*Technical Journalism Sophomore*

fourth edition. This text, the only one of its kind, is known and acclaimed in England, Germany and all over the continent as well as in the United States. In addition, she has written many articles for state bulletins and scientific magazines.

Along with her research, Belle Lowe has taught Iowa State women Experimental Cookery, Dietetics and courses for graduate study in foods. In fact, 45 students have received their Masters and 14 their Doctors degrees under Miss Lowe's instruction.

#### Contemplating Trip Around World

Now Miss Lowe says she wants to pursue an old yearn to travel. At the present time, she is contemplating a trip around the world. Former Dean Nelson recalls that when Miss Lowe went to Europe several years ago, she spent months mixing and matching her clothing in order to get the correct combinations. She wanted a small and compact wardrobe that could go anywhere.

#### Belonged to Naiads

Her time at Iowa State has not all been taken with work. She is especially enthusiastic about her hobby of photography, and in her younger days she belonged to Naiads Swimming Club. Back in that time, before everyone had automobiles, Miss Lowe joined faculty members for picnics on Sunday afternoons. They would take the train to Boone and then walk ten miles to the Ledges, returning the same way.

Miss Lowe received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Chicago and came to Iowa State in 1918. Since then she has left only twice—once to obtain her Masters Degree and again to work in Washington D. C.

Looking back on her years at Iowa State, Miss Lowe doesn't want to offer advice, but she says there have been many changes. "When I first came to the campus if students got married, they went out of school. Now they are building houses for them."

# Salutes:

by Donna Schneider

Technical Journalism Sophomore

Miss Lowe and Dr. Peet were recently honored at a faculty dinner for their many years of service in the Division of Home Economics at Iowa State. They plan to retire this coming June.  
—editor



FOR THE PAST 28 years Dr. Louise J. Peet has tested household equipment and taught Iowa State coeds the electrical and mechanical aspects of a field she never intended to enter.

## Audited Household Equipment

Looking back on her career as professor of household equipment, Dr. Peet explained that after studying chemistry and foods and nutrition in college she became head of the Household Equipment Department in 1931, although she had only audited household equipment courses during graduate school. She held this post until she reached the departmental head retirement age in 1951.

## Written Over 30 Publications

In spite of Dr. Peet's early plans to teach chemistry and foods, she made the switch with ease and went on to make outstanding contributions in her new field. She has written over 30 publications, including the present Household Equipment 154 text, of which she is co-author. She also does research and is especially interested in refrigeration and lighting.

## Taught in Istanbul

Her interest in such subjects stemmed from her early training in science. The former Louise Jenison studied chemistry and mathematics at Wellesley College. After her graduation in 1908, she taught general science at William Woods College, Fulton, Mo., and taught chemistry at the American College for Girls in Istanbul, Turkey from 1914 to 1917.

## Met Husband in Turkey

While in Turkey, Miss Jenison met the man she later married. Mr. Peet was born in Turkey of American parents working as missionaries. He had just returned from college in the United States when he met his future wife. The two were married in the United States in 1916.

For 16 years Dr. Peet was busy being a homemaker and raising their one son. When the depression came, Dr. Peet and her husband decided to go to Iowa State for further degrees to increase their income. Dr. Peet received her doctor's degree in Foods and Nutrition in 1930 and became an instructor. In 1931 the post of head of the Household Equipment Department was vacant and Dr. Peet was asked to take over.

## Trip Around Africa

After her retirement this spring, Dr. Peet will only teach during fall quarter. She cheerfully commented, "This will give me some time to satisfy my travel bug." Her plans include a trip around the Cape of Good Hope and a return visit to Turkey next year. But the field which she "drifted into" still has a firm claim on her interests, and Dr. Peet will continue her research on household equipment in the department she has served for over a decade.

Dr. Louise Peet